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THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry

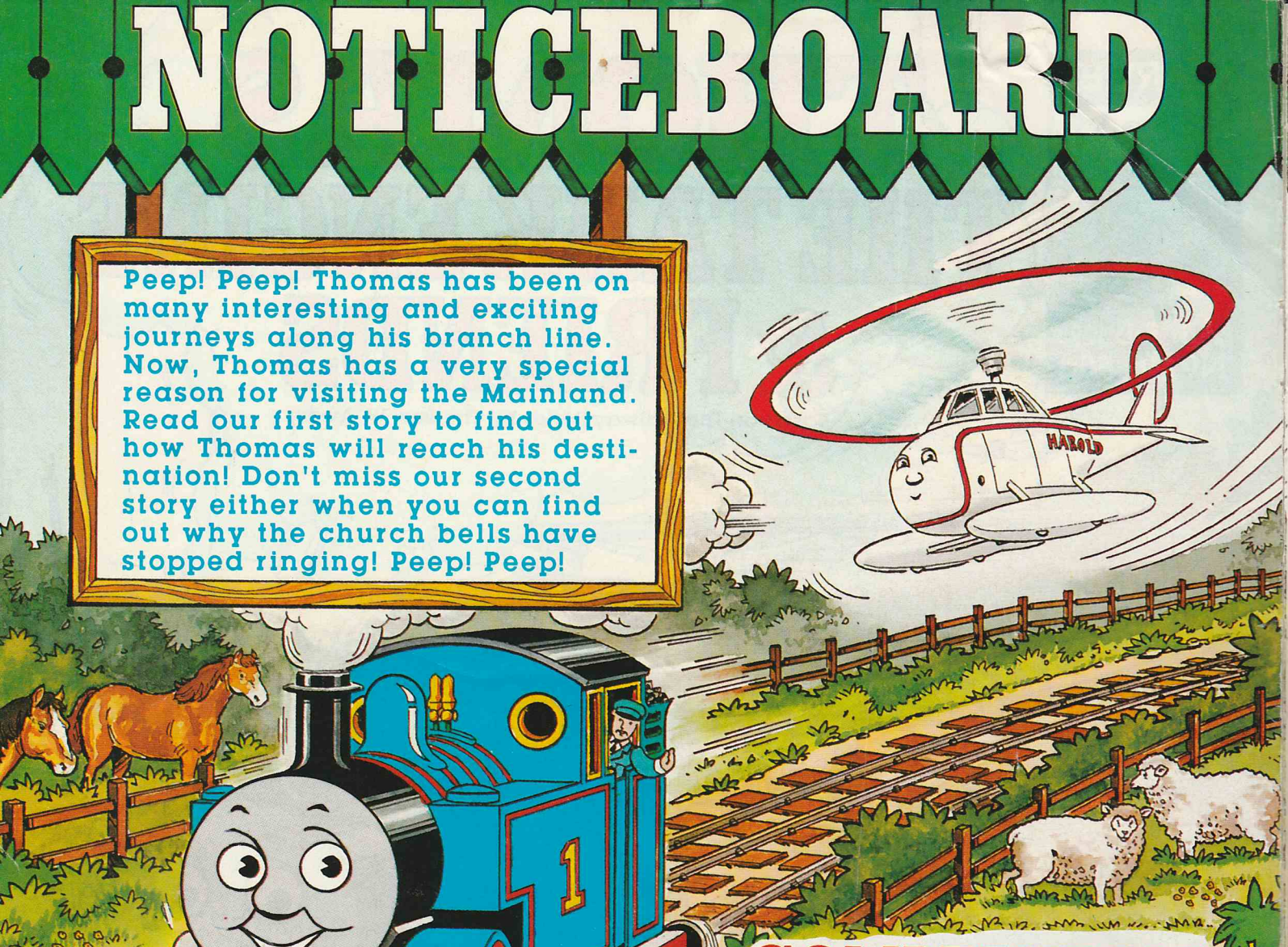
27th Feb. 1993
No 140 60p

Peep! Peep! Thomas is visiting the Boat-yard!

9 770954 939046 08

NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! Thomas has been on many interesting and exciting journeys along his branch line. Now, Thomas has a very special reason for visiting the Mainland. Read our first story to find out how Thomas will reach his destination! Don't miss our second story either when you can find out why the church bells have stopped ringing! Peep! Peep!



COMPETITION!

Turn to page **14** for your chance to win some fantastic games courtesy of *Michael Stanfield Ltd.* You could be the lucky winner of an **Alphabet Playtray** (see picture below), a **Floor Puzzle** or a **Giant Picture Domino game**! Good luck!

HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR FAT CONTROLLER'S CARD!

If you would like to receive your very own, splendid **Fat Controller's Card**, just send one **red**, **yellow** and **blue** token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to: The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

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THOMAS TOKEN

ABC MEMBER OF THE AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS

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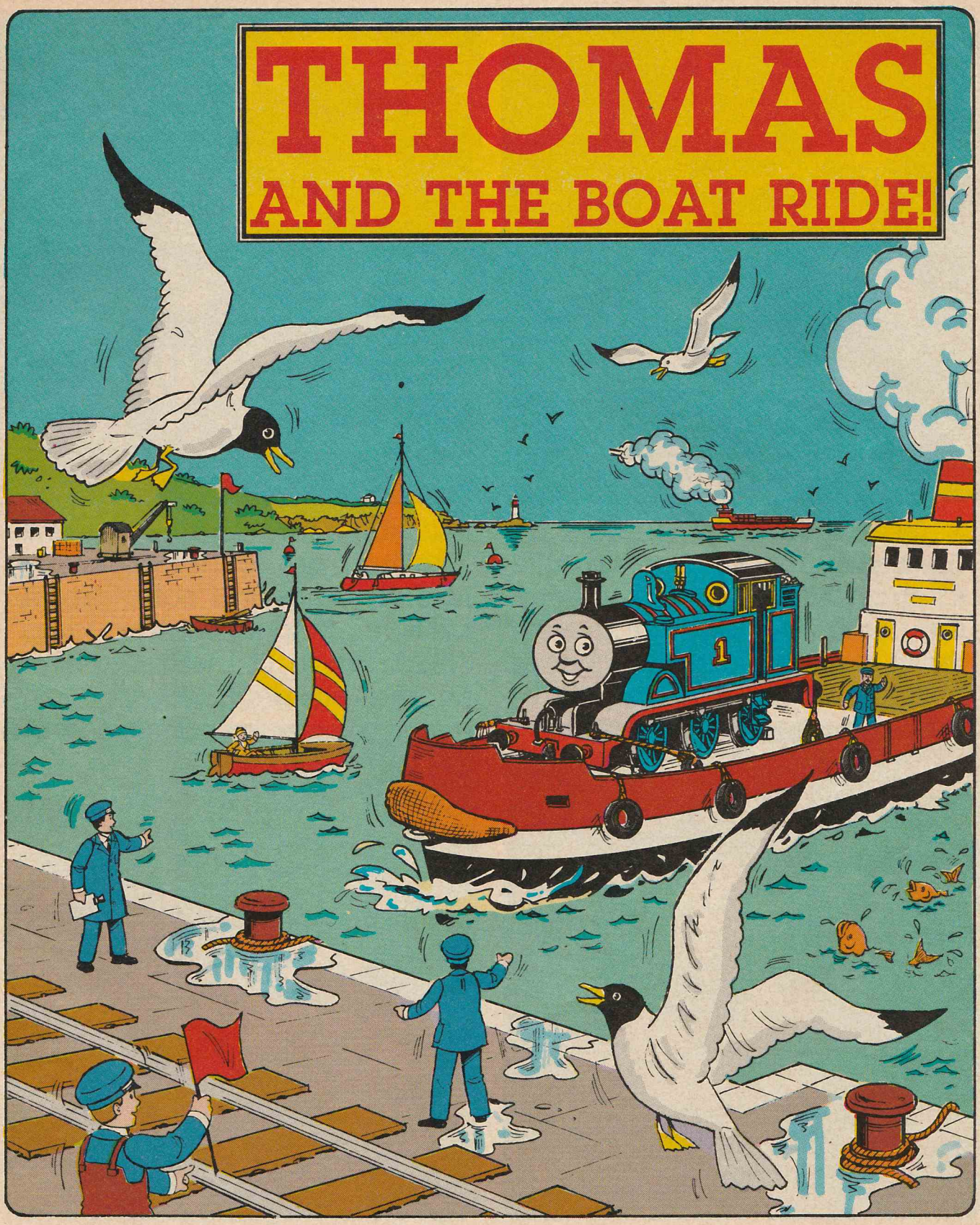
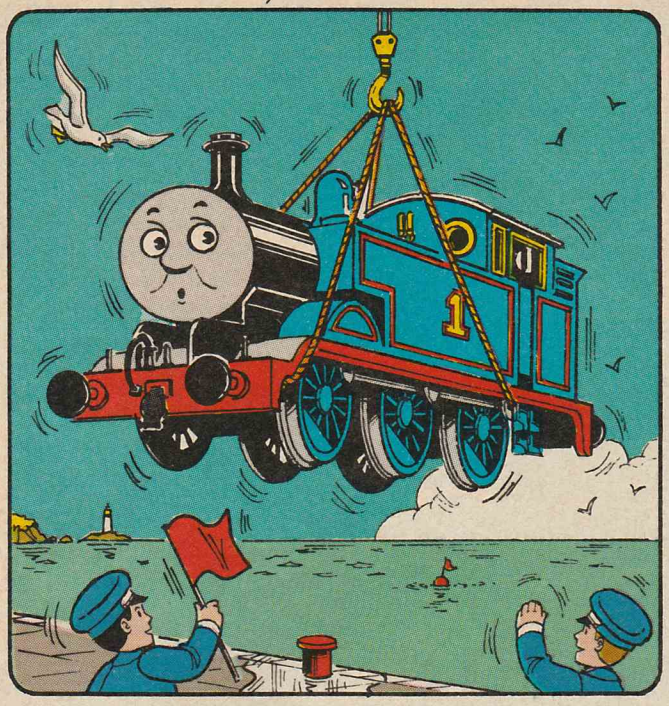
THOMAS AND THE BOAT RIDE!

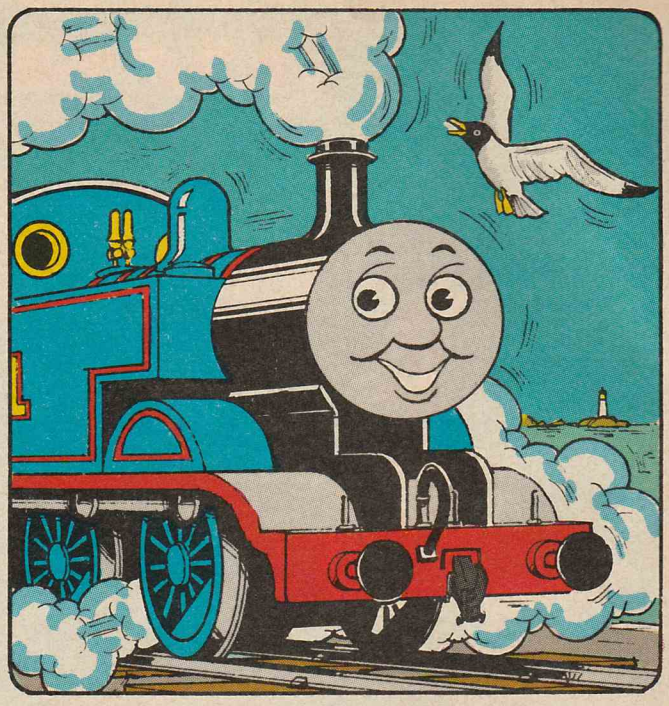


1. It was a busy day on the Island of Sodor. Thomas had been to the mainland to take part in a railway exhibition. Later, a big ship carried him back to the Island of Sodor.

2. Thomas enjoyed the boat ride. He saw all kinds of sailing vessels. Some ships also had funnels that puffed smoke. "Boats look splendid on the sea!" he told his driver.

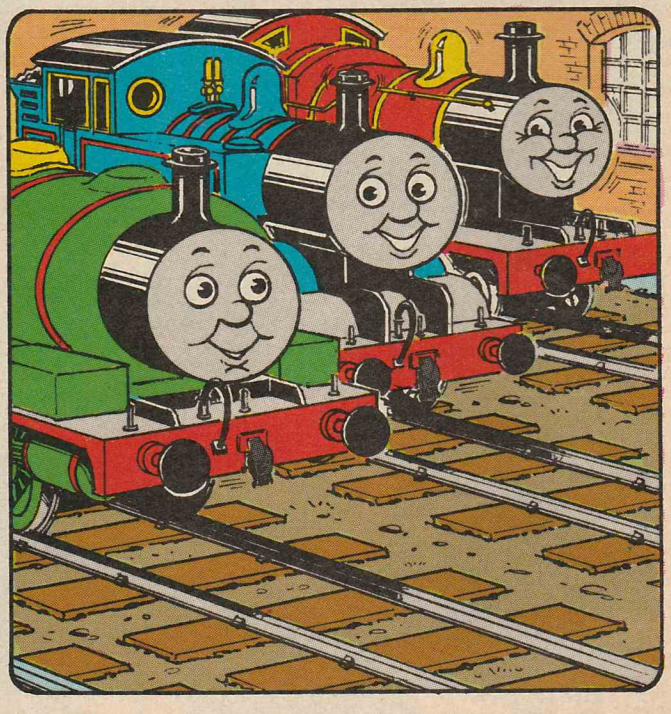


3. When Thomas arrived at the Big Harbour, a crane lifted him off the ship. For a moment, Thomas swung gently in the air on the end of a huge hook. He was dizzy!

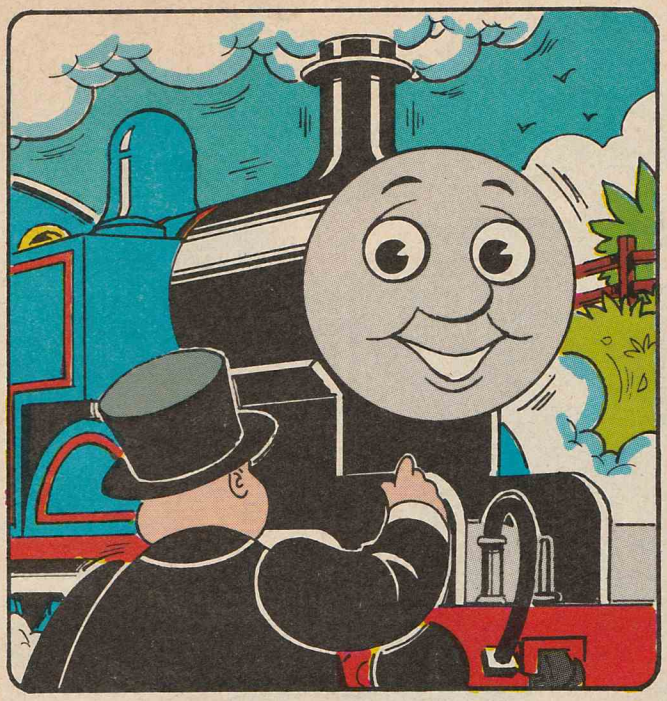


4. The crane then lowered Thomas on to the railway line. Thomas felt safer when his wheels touched the track. The fireman lit the boiler and Thomas steamed away.

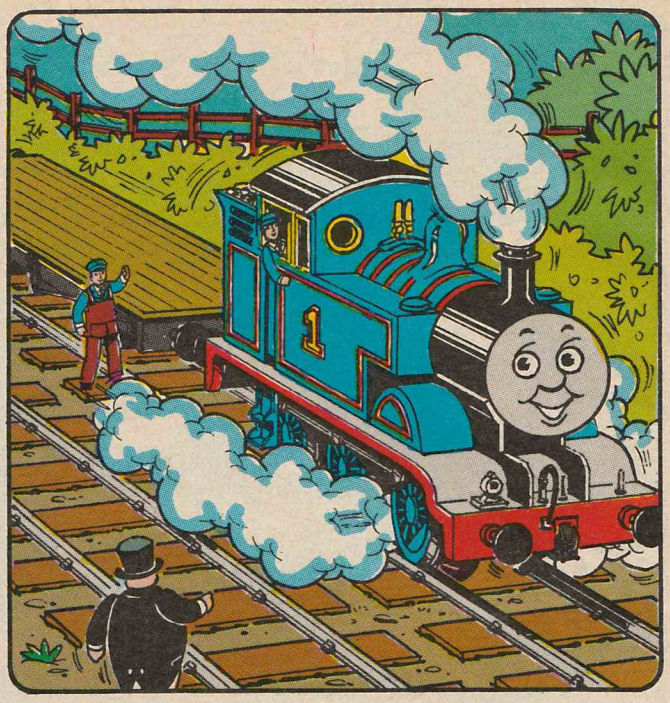
5. "Thank you for bringing me back safely!" said Thomas to the big boat. When Thomas puffed into the Main Station yard, the Fat Controller greeted him.



6. That evening in the shed, all the engines wanted to hear about the exhibition and boat trip. "Imagine it! Being carried on a ship!" gasped Percy.

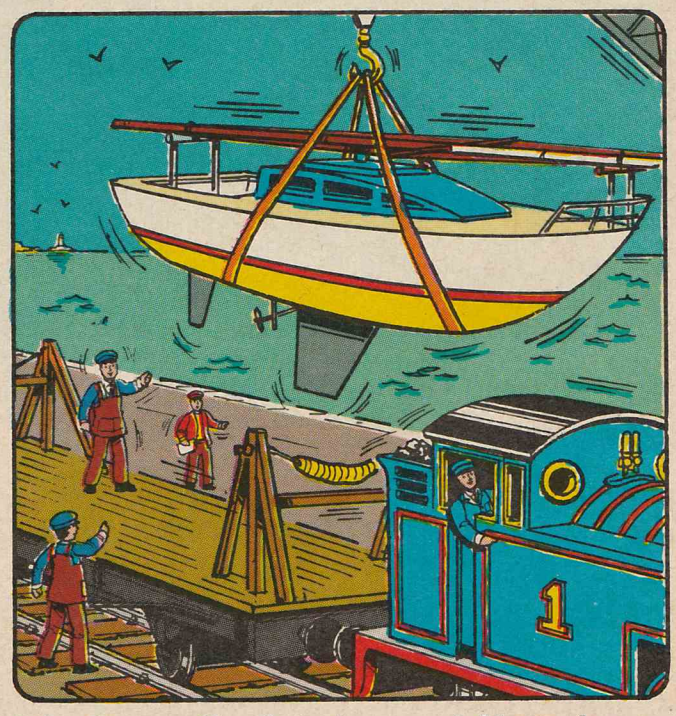


7. Next day, the Fat Controller came to see Thomas. "You must visit a boatyard to collect a yacht and deliver it to the far side of the island!" Thomas was puzzled.



8. "I thought boats travelled by sea, not rail!" Thomas told the Fat Controller. "This is a new boat which has not been launched yet!" he replied. So Thomas set off.

9. He hurried on his way to the boatyard. "This is where boats are built," explained his driver. Thomas had never seen so many boats before, except on his sea-trip.



10. He rolled into a siding by a grand yacht. A crane lifted it on to the truck. "Why must it go by railway?" Thomas's driver asked the boatyard manager.

11. "The sea is too rough for sailing the yacht right round the island," said the manager. "The coastguard has warned of very strong winds offshore, too, for several days! The new owner of the yacht does not want to risk it getting damaged!" At last, the workmen had secured the boat and Thomas pulled slowly out of the yard.

12. As Thomas chuffed along his branch line, people stopped to stare at the sleek yacht. A crane was there to unload it and the boat's proud new owner was waiting eagerly. A crowd gathered to admire the yacht. "Boats can look splendid when they travel by land, too!" said Thomas's driver.

THE END!

In our next issue: A rush can cause a fuss!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

Look what's coming your way!

A super Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Pencil with.....

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

In issue 141! On Sale 1st March 1993

.....

ALSO

Don't miss your **Thomas Rubber** in **Issue 142** and your special **Thomas Balloon** in **Issue 143. Issues 142** and **143** will be on sale **13th March** and **27th March 1993!**

Percy and the Parrot!

It was a cold but bright day on the Island of Sodor. One afternoon, Percy stood all alone in the Main Station yard. He was waiting to shunt trucks but his driver was not sure which ones were to be moved and had gone to ask the Fat Controller. Suddenly, something flew past Percy's face. He was surprised.

"Puffing pistons!" he gasped. "What's that?"

"What's that? What's that? a voice called loudly. Percy wondered who was speaking. Then he spotted a big, brightly coloured bird. It perched in a tree near the yard.

"What's that?" squawked the bird again. Percy was shocked. He had never heard a bird talk before. It flew off as James rolled grandly into the yard.

"What's the matter, Percy?" said James. "You look as if you've seen a ghost train!"

"No, I've seen a talking bird!" spluttered Percy.

"Ridiculous!" James huffed and steamed past.

Soon the driver returned and Percy set to work. He did not see the bird again all afternoon. That evening, in the shed, Percy told the other engines about the talking bird but no one believed him.

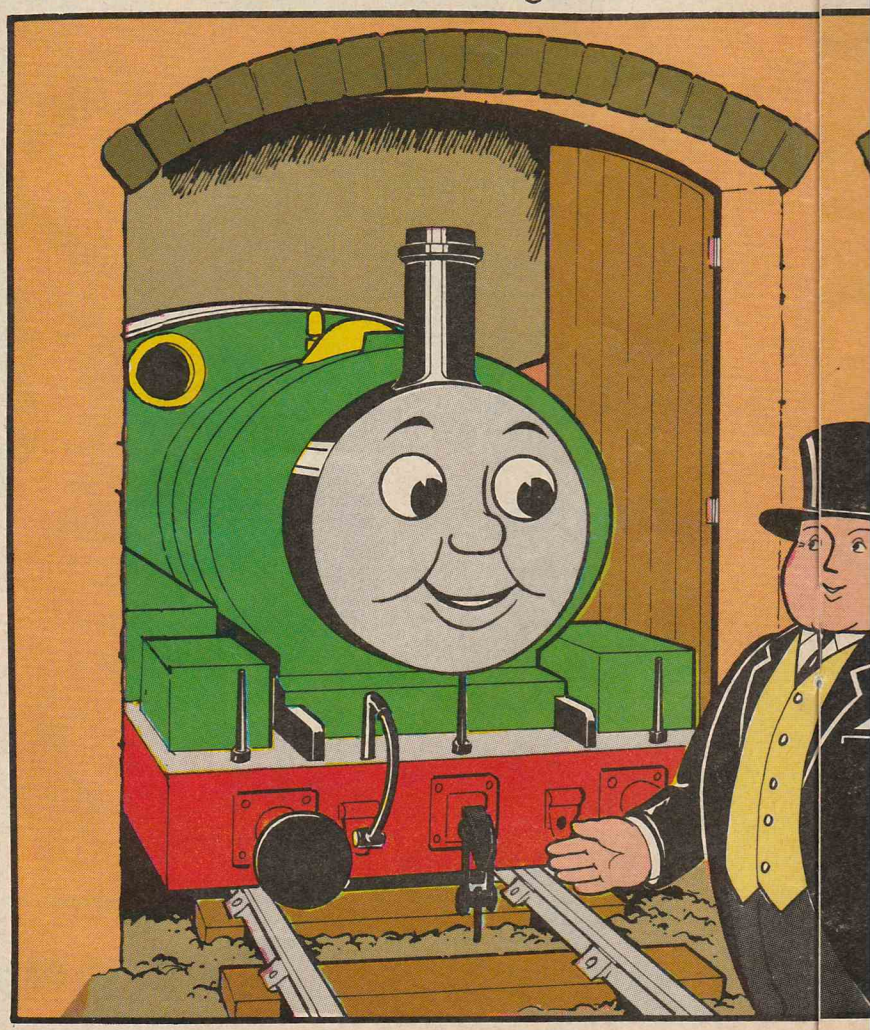
"Gah!" snorted Gordon. "Nonsense!"

"Percy's teasing!" sniffed Daisy. "He can't fool a thoroughly modern diesel railcar like me!"

Next morning, as the engines woke up, the sun shone through an open window into the shed. Suddenly, the strange bird landed by the window. Percy saw it first.

"Look!" he cried excitedly.

"Look! Look!" squawked the bird. This time, all the engines



heard it talking. The strange bird flew away but the engines told their drivers, who arrived for work. One driver went to fetch the Fat Controller. As they returned across the yard, the colourful bird flew right past their heads. It squawked loudly, and landed nearby.

"Gracious!" cried the Fat Controller. "It's a parrot."

The driver took an apple from his lunch box. He cut some small pieces and put them on the ground. The bird flew down to eat the fruit.

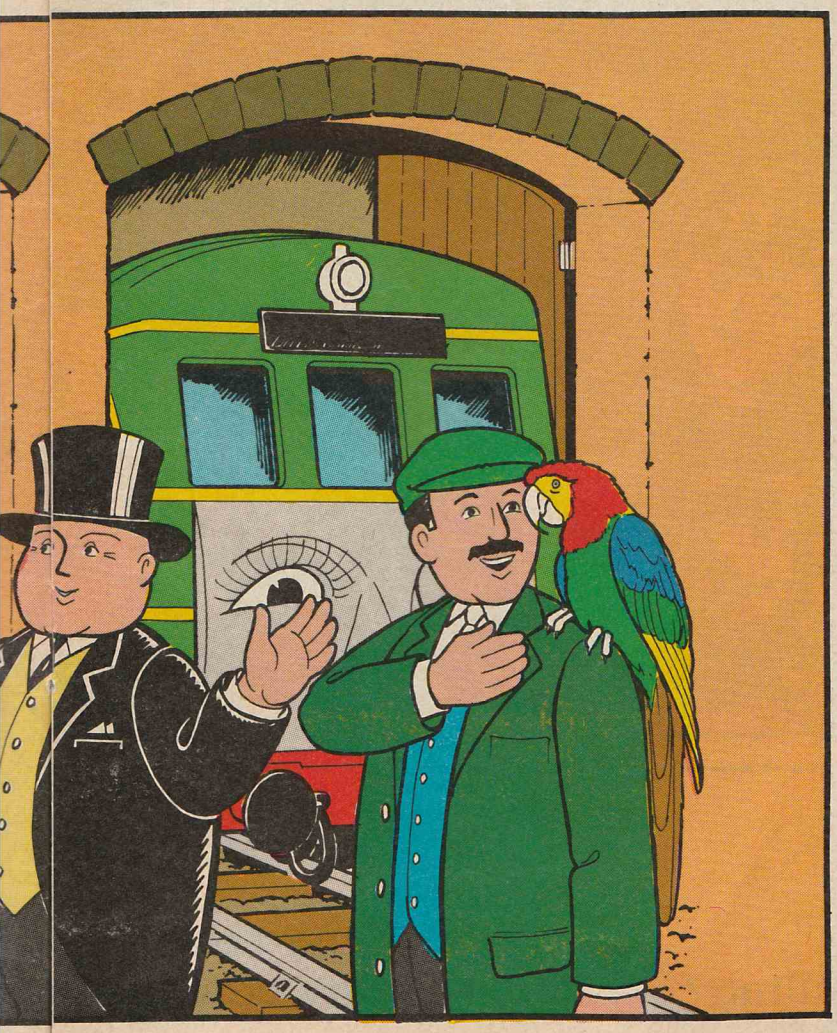
"It's hungry!" said the driver.

The Fat Controller knew the bird was very special and valuable. He rang the police who told him a man had lost a parrot and would come to the Main Station straightaway. When the man arrived, the parrot flew to him immediately and landed on his shoulder.

parrot

"Good boy, Charlie!" said the man. "Who's a pretty boy?"

"Pretty boy! Pretty boy!" repeated the parrot.



The engines were amazed. The man was pleased to have his pet parrot back safely. He explained that he had taught Charlie the parrot to talk but it had flown off while he was cleaning its cage.

"Charlie the parrot is much safer and happier with me!" he said. "He must have got lost and could not find his way home!"

The engines were sorry they had not believed Percy. The Fat Controller congratulated him for spotting the special bird.

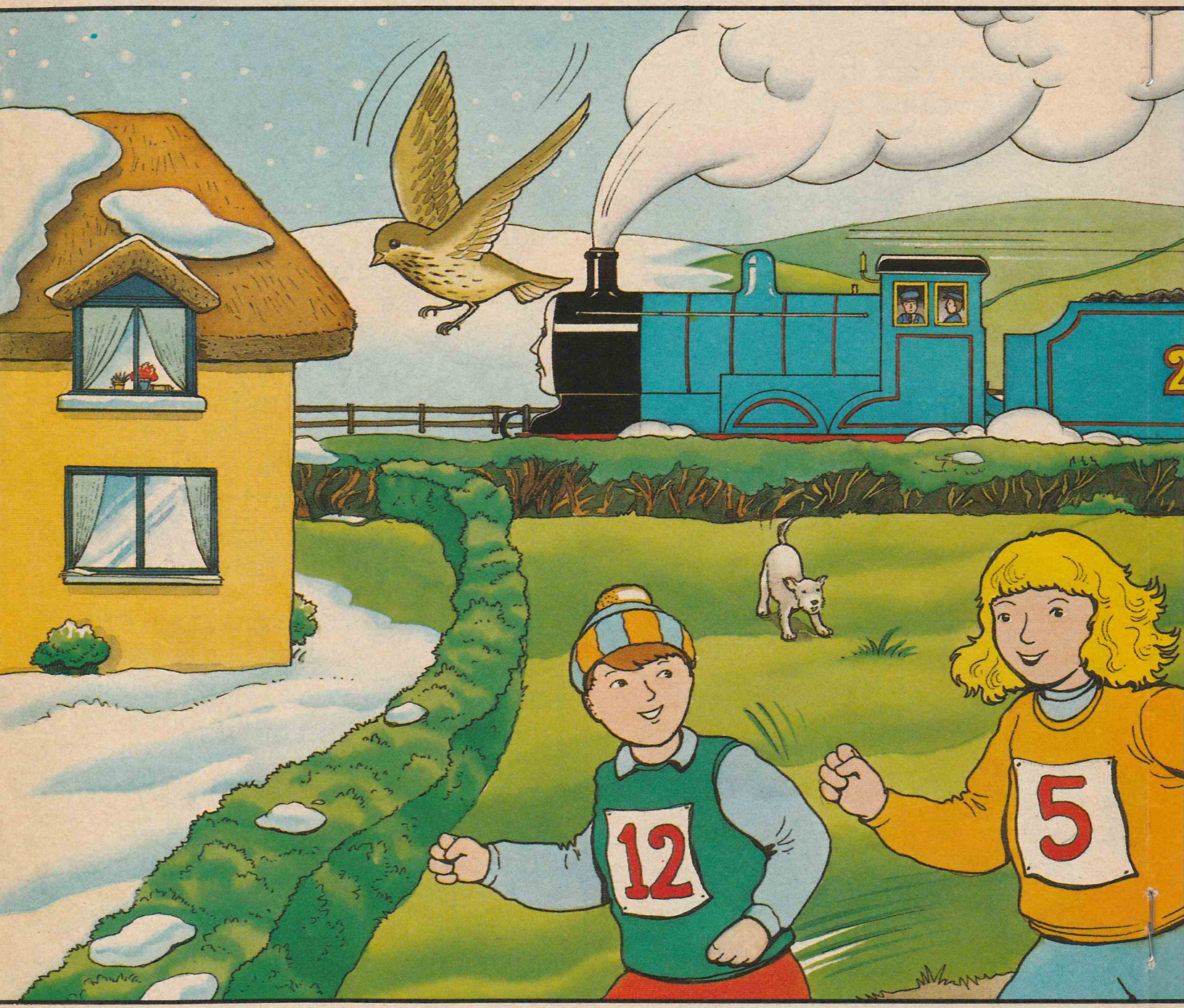
"You are a Really Useful Engine," he said. "Well done, Percy!"

"Well done, well done!" screeched the parrot.

"Charlie agrees too!" chuckled Percy proudly.

THE END!

Cross countr



Which engine can you see?
What colour is he?
What number is he?
How many carriages is he pulling?

How many birds can yo
Can you see the cottage
Point to the hedge!
How many cross countr

try runners!

n you spot?
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untry runners can you count?

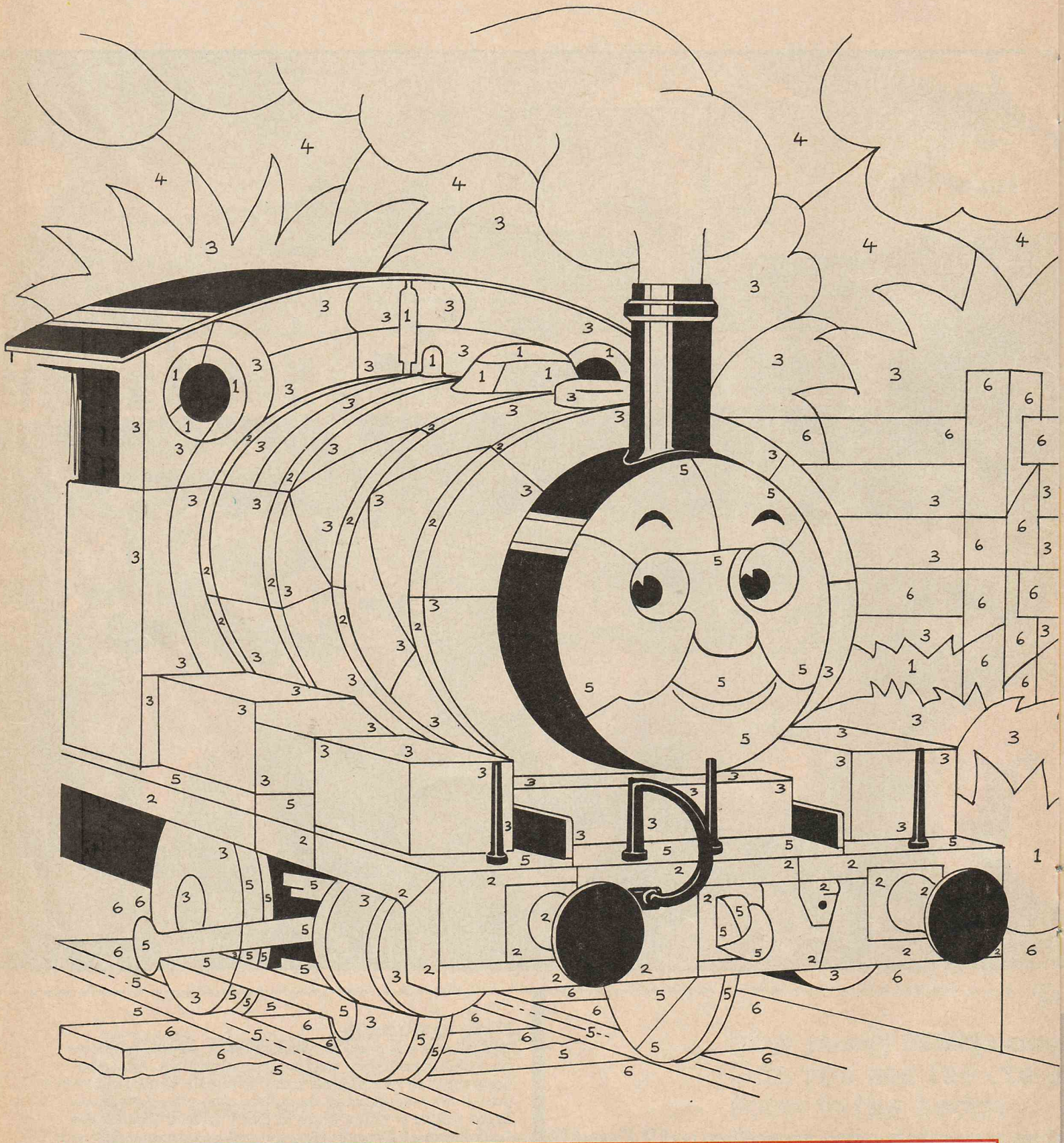
Note to parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centerspread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

In our next issue: Past the spring flowers!

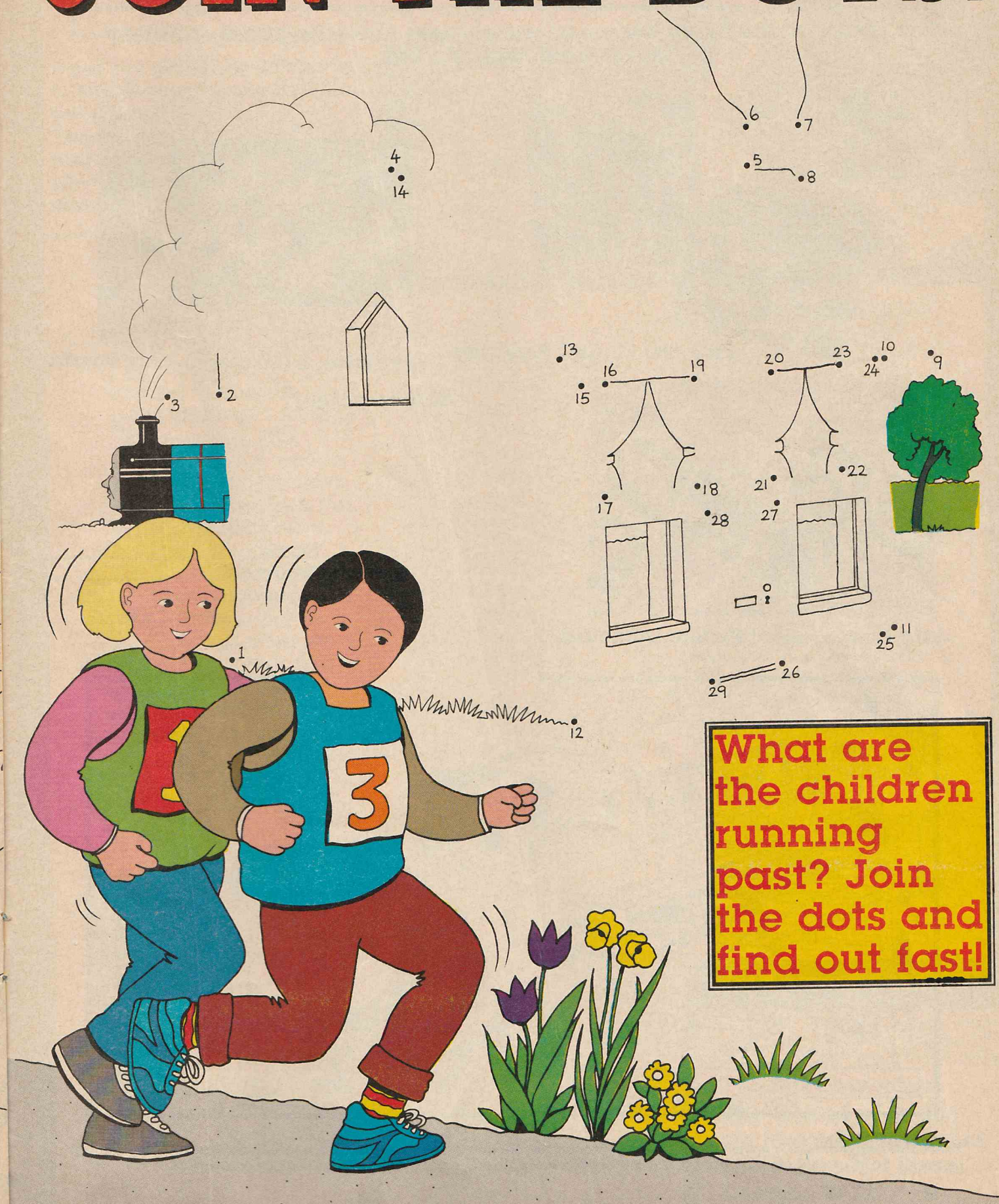
COLOUR BY NUMBERS!

Choose the colours we have listed below then you can paint your own picture!



1.Yellow. 2.Red.3.Green.4.Blue.5.Grey.6.Brown.

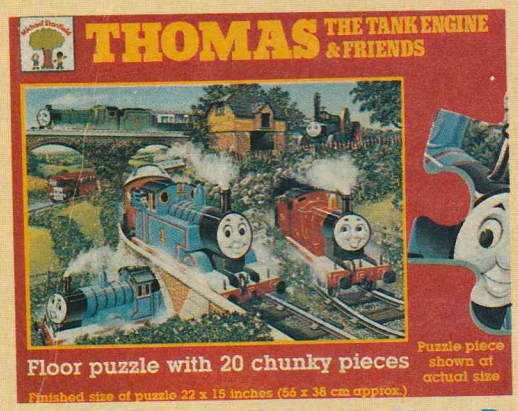
JOIN THE DOTS!



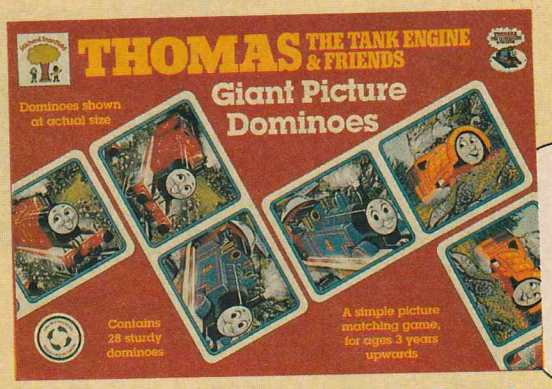
COMPETITION!

You could be the lucky winner of one of these fantastic prizes, courtesy of Michael Stanfield Ltd!

1st Prize: 12 ABC Playtrays.



2nd Prize: 5 (20 piece) Floor Puzzles.



3rd Prize: 5 Giant Picture Dominoes.

How to enter:

All you have to do is take your brightest pencils or crayons to colour the picture below, then send this page to *Thomas/ Michael Stanfield, Colouring Competition, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel St, London. WC2 3DX.*

Name.....
Address.....
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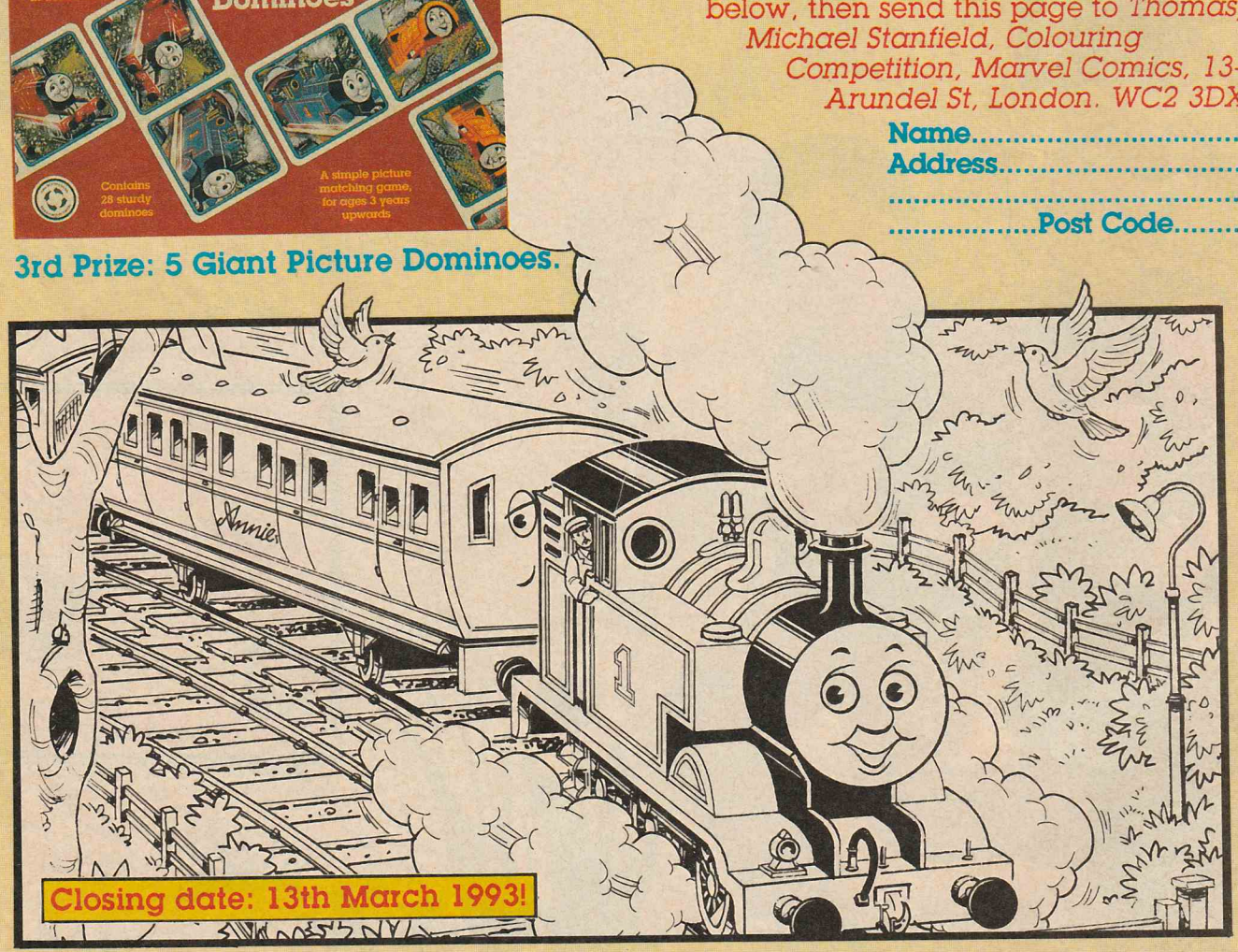
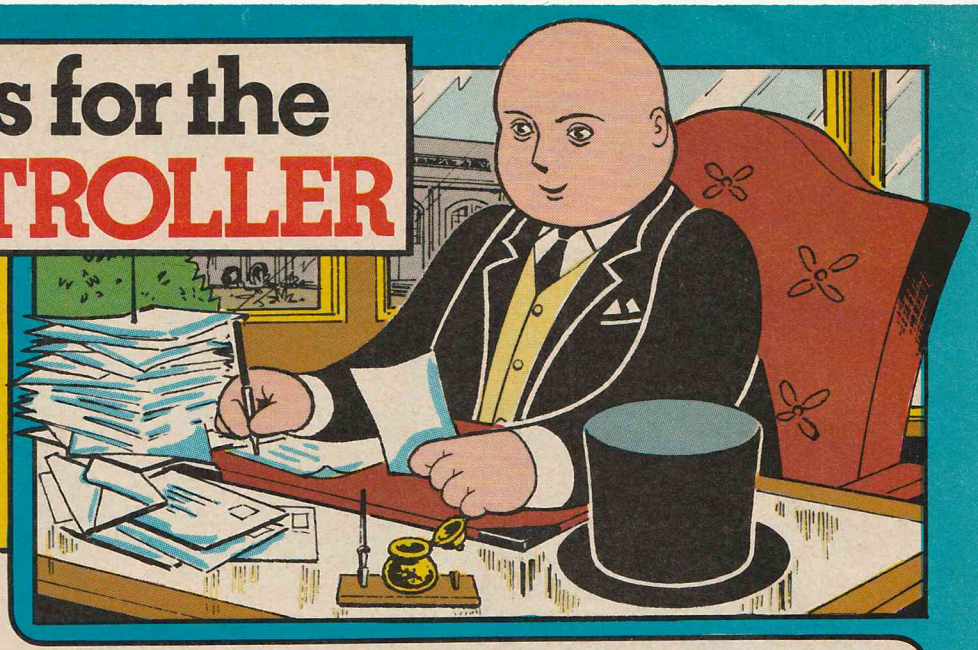
.....Post Code.....



Rules: This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their relatives of Michael Stanfield, Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd and Marvel Comics Ltd. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

STAR LETTER!

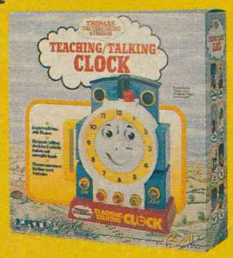
Dear Fat Controller,
I like the story called **"Thomas goes fishing!"** when Thomas has fish caught in his water-tank and the guard has to take them out with a fishing line.

Love from **James,** aged 4!

Thomas always looked forward to seeing the river and filling his tank with water but when he discovered that a fish had swam into the water tower, he decided not to stay by the river again!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win this splendid **Thomas Teaching Talking Clock** courtesy of *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*



THOMAS'S GOOD FRIEND!

Dear Fat Controller,
I like **Thomas the Tank Engine** and I wish he would come to my house to say hello! I also like **Harold the Helicopter** because he is so helpful on my railway. I thought he was great when he delivered the right newspapers to James!

Love from **Amjad Majid,** aged 6!

I do agree! Harold is a very important member of my railway! He is always able to help the engines when they are in very difficult situations!

ENGINE TROUBLE!

Dear Fat Controller,
Can you tell me how many engine breakdowns you have had on your railway line?

Love from **Alistair Hutchinson,** aged 6!

We have had many engine stoppages and accidents but I have always organised my railway so that my engines can help each other at all times!

BIRTHDAY'S!

Special greetings go out to....

Jack Harman, Sebastian Pitman (4762), Daniel Gillespie (38696), Sam Sower, Sam Revill, Robin Dodds, Lewis Green, Rosie Emma Spragg, Lewis Green and Karen Mc Dowell.

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a postcard at least nine weeks in advance!

Yours
Sir Topham Hatt
The Fat Controller!

Send your letters to:

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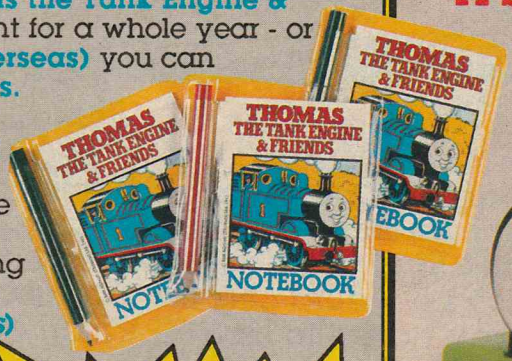

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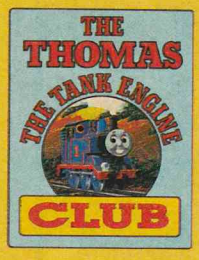
SUBSCRIPTION FORM ▼



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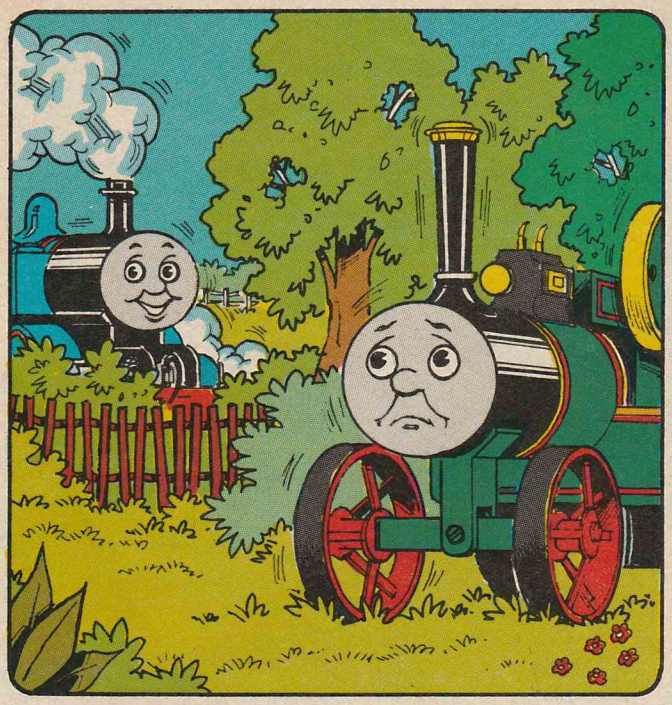
To apply for either subscription please fill out the appropriate section above and send this form, together with a cheque/postal order or credit card details to: **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 500, Leicester LE99 0AA.**

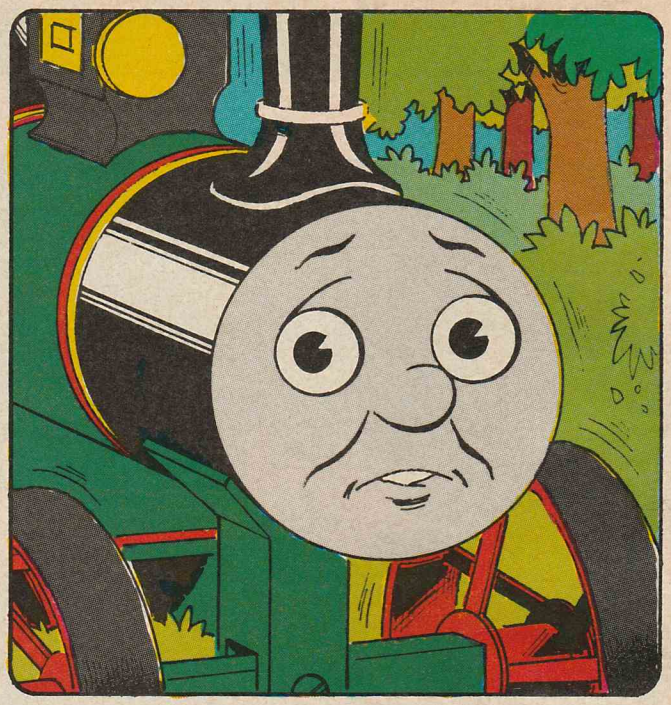
Thomas and the Church Bells!

1. Each morning, Thomas pulled his faithful carriages Annie and Clarabel along his branch line. When they passed by the old church, often the bells would be ringing.

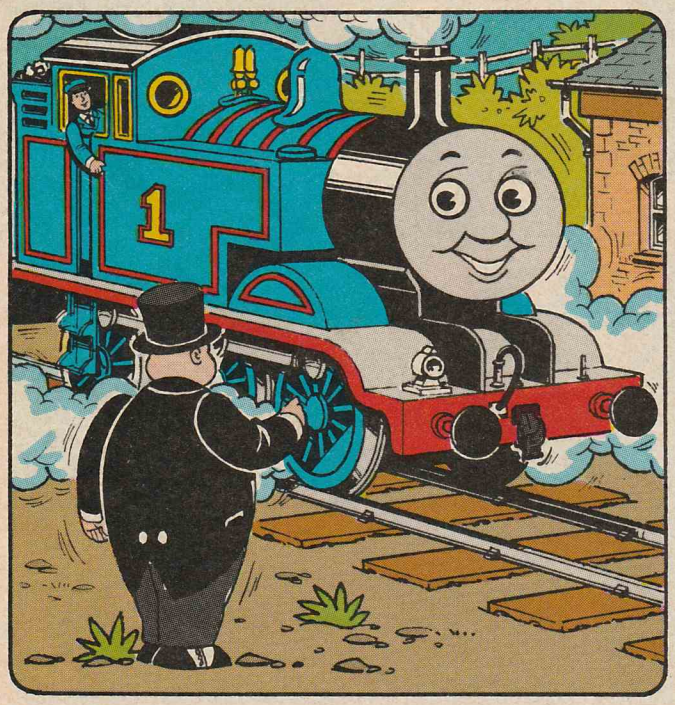
2. One day, as Thomas puffed by, he noticed scaffold poles all around the church tower. Men were working there, and Thomas realised he had not heard the bells for a long time.



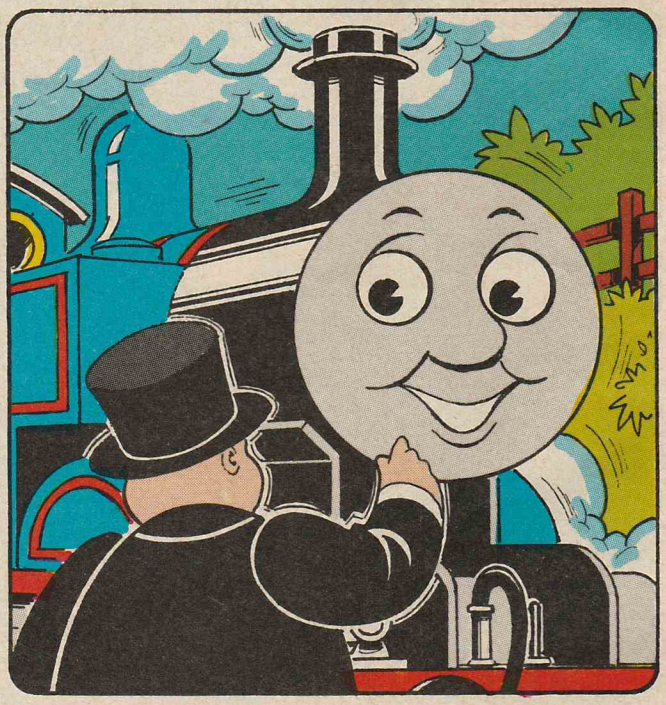
3. As Thomas passed the Vicarage Orchard, he saw Trevor the Traction Engine. "Hello Trevor," said Thomas. "I haven't heard the church bells for a long time."



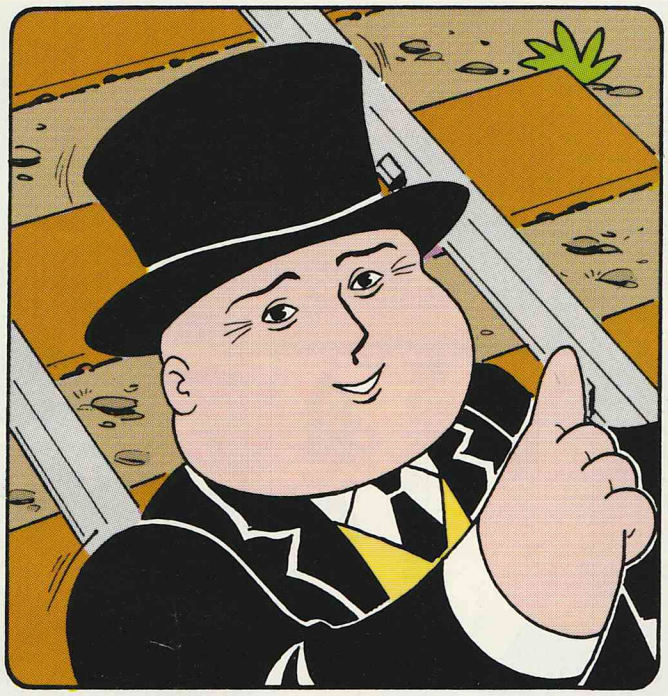
4. "The Vicar says that the church bells can't be used anymore!" replied Trevor glumly. "They are too old and the biggest one is cracked and won't ring properly!"



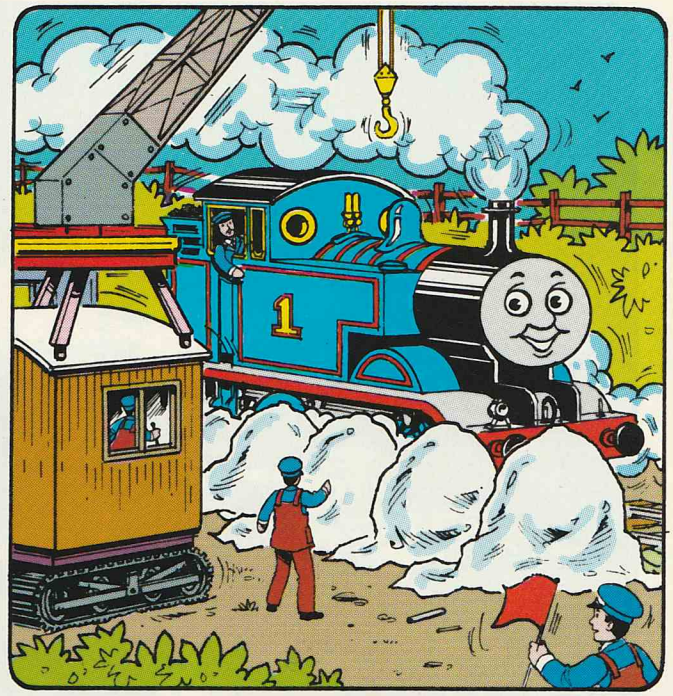
5. Thomas was very sad about the church bells but he tried not to think about them. Then, one day, the Fat Controller came to the yard with a special job for Thomas.



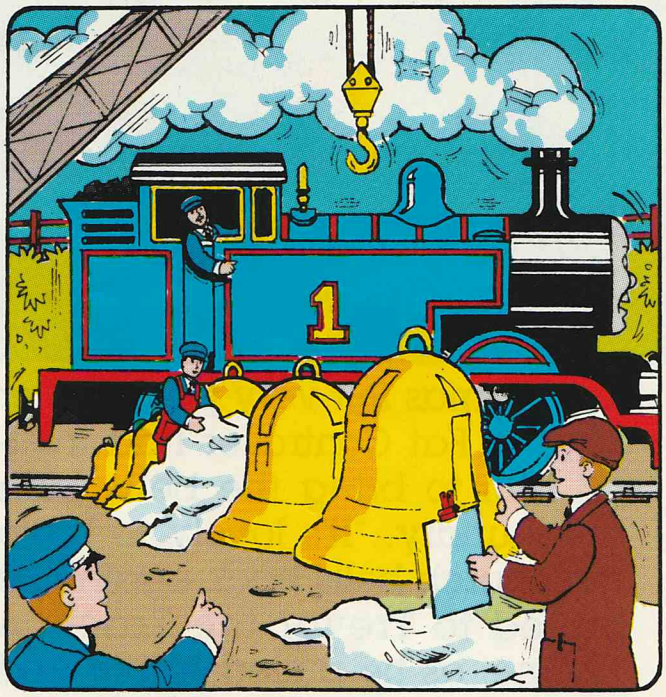
6. "Thomas is to go to the Island of Sodor Foundry," he said. What is a foundry?" asked Thomas. "It's a place where engine wheels can be made," said the Fat Controller.



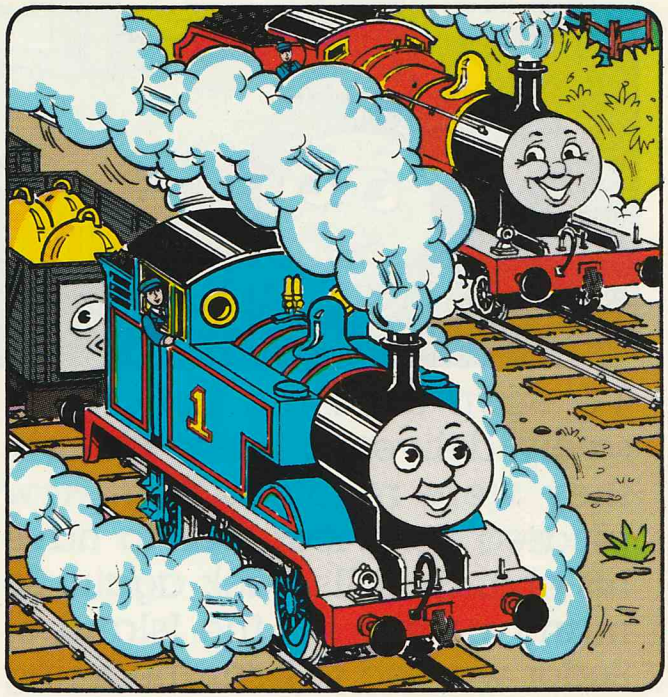
7. "I'm not going to tell you what you have to pick up, because that will spoil the surprise. Now off you go for your trucks," said the Fat Controller.



8. Thomas was very puzzled. When he finally arrived at the Island of Sodor Foundry, there were six mysterious shapes hidden under canvas sheets.



9. "They're all ready for you," said the Foundry Manager. As the canvas sheets were removed, Thomas saw six new church bells. Each one was bigger than the one next to it.



10. No engine could have been more excited than Thomas, as he puffed away from the foundry. "I'm carrying the new church bells!" peeped Thomas.

11. Soon after the bells were safely delivered to the church, they were ready to ring. How pleased the Vicar was to have his church bells back again! So many people on the Island of Sodor wanted to hear them ring that the Fat Controller had to run extra trains. Thomas did not mind at all. He was never tired of listening to the bells.

12. Thomas felt very proud. After all, the Fat Controller had trusted him to bring the bells from the foundry. "It's lovely to have the church bells back again!" he called to Trevor the Traction Engine, as he pulled Annie and Clarabel past the Vicarage Orchard. "Thanks to you, Thomas!" said Trevor, which made Thomas feel prouder than ever.

THE END!

In our next issue: Gordon is late!